



News Release

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Charleston County recognizes National Recovery Month to raise awareness of mental health issues and substance use disorders

[Charleston County Government](#) is recognizing September as National Recovery Month. On Sept. 6, Charleston County Council approved a resolution for National Recovery Month, in order to raise awareness about prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in Charleston County. Last year, 82 proclamations were issued nationwide, including one by the President of the United States. Additionally, September 20, 2016 is recognized as Addiction Professionals' Day.

"Recovery is not often viewed by many in society as the disease that it is. As a result, many people suffering from the symptoms of substance use issues often have to deal with perceptions that root cause of their problems are their moral failures. Recovery month is about recognizing their efforts as they navigate their journey toward a substance free life," said Jonathan Apgar, the Clinical Services Program Manager of the Charleston Center.

Mental and/or substance use disorders is present in our community and it's imperative that individuals in Charleston County understand how to seek help. The Charleston Center has treated an estimated more than 3,000 people with mental health or substance abuse issues between Sept. 1, 2015 and Sept. 1, 2016.

"The vast majority of people suffering from substance use diagnoses do not engage in treatment. Oftentimes, it's by choice, but is also may be about a lack of knowledge regarding the treatment programs available. In addition, it's not only the substance using individuals who may require some support; it's their families and friends as well. Recovery Month is about making sure those in our community know what's available for them and that there is help," said Apgar.

According to the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), National Addiction Professionals Day is also held in September as a part of Recovery Month, a time when people throughout the nation are celebrating their success in overcoming addiction. The day is meant to recognize the important work that tens of thousands of addiction counselors perform in addiction prevention, intervention and treatment. Without the important work of addiction services professionals, the goal of addiction recovery cannot be accomplished.

The [Charleston Center](#), Charleston County's Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, would like to take the opportunity to remind citizens that it provides substance abuse prevention, intervention, education and treatment services. Charleston Center's mission is to help the citizens of Charleston County live productive lives, free from the impact of alcohol, other drugs, and addictive behaviors.

For more information, visit <http://cc.charlestoncounty.org>. A 24-hour helpline is available at (843) 722-0100 or by e-mail at cchelp@charlestoncounty.org.

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